

(c) whether there is any proposal to make use thereof for non-conventional energy purposes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The estimated quantity of garbage generated in the Union Territory of Delhi, month-wise during 1997, upto the month of June, is as follows :

Jan, 1997	6188 tonnes
Feb, 1997	5916 tonnes
March, 1997	6213 tonnes
April, 1997	6618 tonnes
May, 1997	7418 tonnes
June, 1997	6280 tonnes

(b) As per the analysis carried by Municipal Corporation of Delhi through the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur, the average bio-degradable content of the garbage of Delhi is 38.6%.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, under its National Programme on "Energy Recovery from Urban, Municipal and Industrial Wastes" is encouraging the setting up of projects for recovery of energy from wastes, in the country. Municipal Corporation of Delhi have initiated steps for preparing Feasibility Report for erection of a Garbage processing (Pelletisation) Plant and its erection and operation through a third party.

[Translation]

#### Functioning of Rural Public Telephones

2563. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any guidelines have been issued for the improvement in the functioning of rural public telephones;

(b) if so, the reasons for not following the guideline in the districts of Saharsa and Supol; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All guidelines laid down by the Department from time to time are being followed. The

following steps are being taken to improve functioning of rural public telephones:

(i) A Circle level repair centre has been established at Patna.

(ii) Training for staff is being arranged.

(iii) One time repair from suppliers like ITI, BINFO, HTL for MARR equipment is being organised

(iv) Monitoring is being done at SSA and Circle levels and faulty rural public telephones are attended to.

[English]

#### Gauge Conversion

2564. SHRI K. KANDASAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps are being taken to convert Salem-Karur railway line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for this project; and

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir. There is no NG/MG line between Salem and Karur and work in question of conversion of this line does not arise. However, construction work for a new MG line from Salem to Karur has been taken up.

(b) The total cost of the project has been estimated at Rs. 136 crs. and allotment for 1997-98 is Rs. 5.00 crs.

(c) Final Location Survey, preparation of land plans and other preparatory works have already been taken up.

[Translation]

#### Setting up of New AIR Station

2565. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the earnings of AIR through advertisements has been adversely affected due to the extensive coverage of Doordarshan telecast in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to set up new AIR station; and

(c) if so, the policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No comparison can be made between All India Radio and Doordarshan as both are entirely two different media, one being audio and the other visual. All India Radio is having its own market for advertisement earnings which has shown a steady increase during the last few years.

(b) and (c) It is the continuous endeavour of the Government to expand and improve All India Radio's coverage. During the VIII Plan, several stations were planned, which are presently under various stages of implementation. In the IX Plan, additional Radio Stations are proposed to be set up to cover more areas, subject of the approval by the Government/Planning Commission and availability of adequate financial resources. Further, the power of several transmitters is also being increased to improve the coverage and with a view to earn more revenue.

[English]

#### **Blacklisted Companies**

2566. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2969 dated March 13, 1997 and state :

(a) whether the companies to whom show cause notices have been issued, have submitted their replies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by DOT against them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An Inquiry Officer has been appointed. All the Firms have submitted replies and the same are under examination.

#### **Village Telephones**

2567. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether DOT has fixed a target for providing telephones in villages during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof and target achieved so far;

(c) whether the MARR equipment suppliers have expressed their inability to make deliveries of such equipments on schedule;

(d) if so, the names of the firms which have shown their inability; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to meet the target in view of the suppliers inability?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The achievement of VPTs for the period 1996-97 is 56719 as against the target of 75,000 VPTs.

(c) and (d) Some of the suppliers expressed difficulties in completing their supplies within the stipulated delivery schedule. The list of the firms is given in the attached Statement.

(e) (i) The delivery schedule of the suppliers was extended;

(ii) Suppliers were persuaded to expedite the supply;

(iii) Additional orders for MARR systems were placed to augment the supply position; and

(iv) Circles were asked to increase target on physical medium such as cables/overhead lines.

#### **Statement**

Sl. No.	Firm's name
1.	ARM Ltd. Hyderabad.
2.	Phoenix Telecommunications Ltd. Hyderabad
3.	Himachal Futuristic Commn. Ltd., N. Delhi.
4.	Phoenix Technology Corporation (P) Ltd., Bangalore.
5.	Sinclair Electronic Industries Ltd., Hyderabad
6.	MIC Electronics (P) Ltd., Hyderabad
7.	HTL Ltd., Madras.
8.	Technicom System Ltd., Nasik.
9.	National Telecommunication India Ltd., Bombay.
10.	Gold Stone India Ltd., Hyderabad
11.	Shyam Telecom Ltd., New Delhi.
12.	ITI Ltd., Bangalore
13.	Intercity Cables Systems (P) Ltd., New Delhi.
14.	Binfo Electronic (P) Ltd., Bangalore
15.	ANCO Communication Ltd., Bangalore